

**STATE INTERAGENCY COORDINATING COUNCIL (ICC)
ON EARLY INTERVENTION**

MEETING MINUTES

FRIDAY, May 18, 2001
Radisson Hotel
San Diego

ICC MEMBERS PRESENT

Raymond M. Peterson, M.D., Chair
Patricia Aguiar, DSS
Valerie Charlton, M.D., DHS
Arleen Downing, M.D.
Walter Olsen, Jr., Ed.D., CDE
Marie Kane Poulsen, Ph.D.
Martha Sanchez
Cheri Schoenborn, DDS

ICC MEMBERS ABSENT

Gwen Aldridge, DADP
Livia Faure-Gault
Nancy Lee, DOI
Elaine Fogel Schneider, Ph.D.
Sharon Tettegah, Ph.D.

CALL TO ORDER

Raymond M. Peterson, M.D., Chair, called the meeting to order at 8:20 a.m.

INTRODUCTIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

ICC members, community representatives, staff, and members of the audience provided self-introductions. Jim Cleveland announced that the revised the Best Practice Guide "What's Best for Infants and Young Children" is now available and provided an order form (attached). Dr. Peterson welcomed Terry Colborn as a new community representative to the Family Support Services Committee. Patty Moore announced the "Batteries Not Included" Family Conference on June 9th in Santa Barbara. Martha Sanchez reminded everyone of the Fiesta Educativa 2001 Conference "Families United Through Education and Advocacy" on June 8-9, 2001 at the University of Southern California.

AGENDA

The agenda was approved as presented. The issues on Foster Care will be summarized by an Ad Hoc Committee and presented as a recommendation at the next meeting. Greg Rose will report under Committee of the Whole.

APPROVAL OF MARCH ICC MINUTES

Wally Olsen moved to approve the minutes with the following correction:

On page 17 it should read 95th percentile rather than 90th.

The motion was seconded and carried.

CHAIR'S REPORT

Dr. Peterson welcomed everyone to San Diego. He reported that the proposed increase in clinical positions for regional centers was removed from the Governor's Budget in the May revise. California has been selected as one of ten states being reviewed by the Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP). The review will be a self-survey with a steering committee and focus groups. The self-survey has to be completed by late December 2001.

STAFF REPORT

Cheri Schoenborn reported that the Department is undergoing reorganization and will include a copy in the next packet. The Community Services Division has been divided in two separate divisions, which are the Community Support Division and the Operations Division. There will no longer be a Prevention and Children Services Branch. It will be absorbed into the Health & Developmental Services Branch. This Branch will include the Office of Clinical Services with Dr. Mary Lu Hickman and Ron Huff, the Health & Wellness Section, the Early Start State Services Section, and Early Start Local Support Section. Ken Freedlander has been busy filling the vacant positions in his section. Kim Smith is the new secretary. Debby Reath is a new liaison to the San Diego, Orange County, and Inland Regional Center areas. James Johnson is a new liaison to the central California areas and Golden Gate Regional Center. John Ellis will begin in the middle of June and will be responsible for the northern California areas. Ken has also filled the Assistant Section Chief's position.

Barbara Ferreira reported that the next meeting would be at the Governor's Inn in Sacramento, July 26-27th. Reservations are to be made directly with the hotel by June 25th in order to receive the State rate of \$84.00 plus tax. Please identify yourself as a participant of the Department of Developmental Services' ICC Meeting. The cancellation policy is 24 hours prior to arrival date. Ms. Ferreira requested all minutes and agenda items be submitted to her by June 1, 2001.

FAMILY RESOURCE CENTER NETWORK OF CALIFORNIA (FRCN of CA) REPORT

Patty Moore reported that the FRCN Steering Committee met from 2:00 to 3:00 p.m. on Wednesday with the purpose of continued discussion on the strategic plan for growth and future planning. A large part of the discussion was around SB 511 "Parent Empowerment Centers" and drawing up an action plan. Follow the bill by logging onto supportempowerment@yahoogroups.com. The General Business began at 3:00 p.m. with 22 participants representing much of the state. A special thanks was extended to the San Diego partnership of Exceptional Family Resource Center, San Diego Regional Center, San Diego Infant Programs, and Foundation for Developmental Disabilities for hosting the meeting and refreshments.

The FRCN of CA has committed to the California Community Imperative Conference 2002 in Oakland. The FRCN of CA is committed to build Network awareness; provide outreach and public awareness of the event via newsletters, flyers, 'word of mouth'; and attendance and assistance the day of the event. For more information on the California Community Imperative: A Turning Point Conference contact the Center on Human Policy, Syracuse University, thechp@sued.syr.edu or The California Alliance for Inclusive Communities, Inc., CAIC@silcom.com.

The Health Care Connections Manual is now available in Spanish with a Chinese version expected in June.

A nominating committee was selected to prepare a slate of officers to be voted upon in July and take office in September. Discussion was held on funding for the new chair to attend ICC meetings.

Plans are underway for the 4th Annual FRCN of CA Conference in late February 2002 in the Ontario area.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE (COTW)

The Committee continued the discussion on Foster Care. After a great deal of discussion, it was agreed to appoint an Ad Hoc Committee to bring recommendations back for discussion at the next meeting. The next COTW will have a presentation and discussion on Child Care Issues.

Greg Rose summarized the Foster Care Issues as presented over the past six months. There are approximately 100,000 children in the Foster Care System in California. Nearly half are in "kincare" meaning with a blood relative of some kind. The others are in what is referred to as "stranger care". The most common reason for removal from the home is neglect. Both the Foster Care System and the Early Start System in California serve approximately, 1,820 children, which is a little more than 10% of the regional center caseload. The Public Health Nurse project has been helpful in the tracking of multiple placements and health related issues in 55 of the 58 health jurisdictions throughout the state. The four common themes discussed throughout the six-month period are:

1. Timely assessment, referral, follow-up and tracking
2. Interagency collaborations and forums
3. Need and interest in cross training
4. Funding – how to free up funds, flexible funding, blended funding

The matrix that was included with the January Minutes will be attached for reference to these minutes.

Valerie Charlton reported that Carol Lambert, Children's Medical Services is in charge of the Public Health Nurse program for the state.

PUBLIC AWARENESS COMMITTEE (PAC)

Martha Sanchez reported that the committee is recommending the approval of the Early Start Annual Performance Report at the next meeting. The committee discussed the content of the ICC Orientation Manual and suggested that the role of the community representative be included along with the Early Start Central Directory of Early Intervention Resources, the Early Start Annual Performance Report and travel reimbursement procedures. The committee discussed possible audiences in the foster care community who could benefit from Early Start resource materials.

QUALITY ASSURANCE, PROGRAM AND PERSONNEL STANDARDS COMMITTEE (QAPPS)

Marie Poulsen reported that the committee discussed the updating of natural environments and funding to support vendor programs through the regional centers. The funding provided a means of dialog between regional centers and vendor programs in understanding the meaning of natural environments. Some of the funds were used to send staff to the natural environments forum. The use of the funds varied among regional centers.

The Early Intervention Distance Learning Project was discussed. This is an activity of the Comprehensive System of Personnel Development. It is an innovative way of achieving the multiple pathways of personnel development leading to a certificate. This project is to provide training to early interventionist who provides direct assistance to infants and toddlers. The course work can be applied to early childhood and special education credential or masters degree.

The committee reviewed the Mental Health Screening Tool developed by the California School of Mental Health designed for children in Foster Care. The Tool, itself is inappropriate because of the issues related directly to trauma and neglect. The behaviors discussed applicable to all children.

HEALTH SYSTEMS COMMITTEE (HSC)

Arleen Downing reported that the committee reviewed the vision screening recommendations and referred it to a subcommittee to finalize before the next meeting. At the next meeting an ophthalmologist from the California Children's Services will be invited to review this screening model. The committee discussed the health information in the new Service Coordinator's Handbook and the importance of training on health status. Dr. Mary Lu Hickman and Terence Williams reviewed the process of health status monitoring during the site visits. Nearly all the regional centers and SELPAs are addressing health issues during the site visit. There is an increase of use of qualified health professionals in the review of health status. It is expected that the multi-disciplinary team is important and is to insure that health issues are addressed.

FAMILY SUPPORT SERVICES COMMITTEE (FSSC)

Greg Rose reported the attendance at the committee meeting was exceptional and had to add additional chairs again. The committee welcomed Terry Colborn as the new community representative. The majority of the meeting was a local presentation by Sherry Torok and

Linda Brault showing the partnership, teaming, and family center approach in the natural environment settings in the San Diego area. The T-Grid was reviewed. The committee is concerned that there is no DDS staff assigned to regularly attend their meeting. Cheri Schoenborn thanked Mr. Rose for assuming the role of staff to the committee for the day. The committee is establishing a tracking system for initiatives regarding families.

PUBLIC INPUT

1. Janet Eaton, State DD Council provided copies of the 2000 Annual Report that includes what the Council has done during the reporting year. It also lists program development fund grants completed and awarded during 2000. The Council's Library will be put on-line with access through the web site. The 2001 State Plan has been disseminated with public input requested from the beginning of June through the middle of July.
2. Terry Colborn reported that Easter Seals has been awarded two 3-year grants. One a Prop 10 Grant and one from the Sacramento Families and Children Coalition to provide mental health counseling to families with children at risk or have learning disabilities.

ACTION ITEMS:

1. Revised ICC Agenda
No vote taken as of this time. Meeting format will remain the same for the time being. A request was made to look at the dates of the November meeting for possible conflict with the Zero to Three Conference.

Dr. Peterson had to leave and asked that Marie Poulsen assume the chair.

LEAD AGENCY REPORT – DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES (DDS)

Cheri Schoenborn disseminated information on the May Revise (attached). It shows a comparison of the November 2000 Estimates to the May Revision for budget year 2001-02.

Ms. Schoenborn recognized and thanked Cheryl Holden and her supervisor Pat Hastings for their continued staff work on the Service Delivery Reform Project. The draft report was released to the Legislature on May 15th with the proposed plans to address the rate increase and the redesign of the service delivery reform system for residential services. It is posted on the DDS website at www.dds.ca.gov. Comments regarding the report should be made to DDS prior to July 17, 2001. The day programs, including infant development programs will be addressed in the second phase of the project.

Plans are in the process for the OSEP Monitoring and as they are finalized ICC Members and the community will be informed. The Department has submitted the grant application for fiscal year 2002-2003. In the application, the definition of parents was changed to acknowledge the primary care giver according the change in the regulations. Also the remedies for complaints that had not been addressed previously in the regulations were changed.

Ms. Schoenborn shared a letter regarding natural environments and California's service system from a parent's perspective (attached). The next Natural Environments Forum will be the end of September in South San Francisco. Peter Guerrero compiled the discussion points and feedback from the first forum and they will be included in the ICC packet. The Service Coordinator's Institute Foundation will be held next week in South San Francisco with the Advance Service Coordinator's Institute in Burbank June 12-13, 2001. The scope of trainings for the coming year is currently being reviewed. The scholarship funds for the year have been fully allocated (attached).

SB1096 authored by Senator Ortiz would extend the definition of infants and toddlers under the California Early Intervention Services Act to age 4. The hearings have been cancelled since the definition is mandated by Federal Regulations and it is now a spot bill. SB511 is the Family Empowerment expanding Family Resource Centers.

Ms. Schoenborn with the assistance of Sue Winar presented a summary of the Due Process and Mediation Cases for the period of July 1, 2000 through December 31, 2000 (attached). A status report was also provided for the same period on the Early Start Complaints (attached).

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION (CDE)

Wally Olsen reported that CDE had representatives at all of the monitoring visits with DDS. CDE also reviewed 55 local education agencies during the past year. Significant non-compliance issues were raised during these visits on the IFSPs. Appropriate representation on the IFSP team was also noted.

Dr. Olsen disseminated copies of the "Handbook on Developing and Implementing Early Childhood Special Education Programs and Services". A copy of the order form is attached as well as being available on the CDE website. Special acknowledgement for the revision was made to Jan Kearns, Ellen Broms, Donna Sullivan and Ann Kuschner.

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES (DHS)

Valerie Charlton reported that the program of Public Health Nurses working with Foster Care has a \$6 million budget with 247 part and full-time positions. Seventy percent of the positions are already filled with approximately 79 to be filled. It is reported that 60-70% of the caseload have acute to chronic health problems.

The Medically Vulnerable Infant Program has 12 contractors throughout the state with 11,000 children served to date by the program. Fifty-one percent have been premature infants. The Nurse Consultant overseeing the program is Martha Ramirez-Baker.

An update on the Newborn Hearing Screening Program will be presented at the November ICC Meeting. To date, there are 23 hospitals in the program with approximately 43,000 babies being screened. Twenty-six children have been identified with a hearing loss. The toll free number to Department of Education is 1-866-505-9388 for Nancy Sager. For questions on the Newborn Hearing Screening Program the toll free number is 1-877-388-5301.

Dr. Charlton reported on the yearly report to the Federal Government on activities concerning women, mothers, infants, children and children with health care needs. The preliminary report will be on the website at www.ccldmcah.org. Comments and feedback are requested.

The Children's Medical Services is moving to 1515 K Street, Sacramento, CA 95814.

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES (DSS)

Greg Rose reported that May is Foster Care Awareness Month. Events were held in Sacramento and Long Beach to commemorate the month.

As a result of the joint committee hearings on Foster Care, over 40 bills have been introduced.

DSS is also preparing for a Federal Monitoring visit.

Mr. Rose reported that Early Start Resources information booth at the Stakeholders Conference in Anaheim was very well received.

OTHER BUSINESS

None

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 12:20 p.m.